

A NINE BILLION DOLLAR REPAIR BILL FOR FRANCE

Frank G. Carpenter Finds the French Have Paid Out Enough to Give \$3,000 to Everyone in Chicago and \$55,000 for Each Family in Boston or Cleveland

(Carpenter's World Traveler, Copyright, 1922, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

Lens, France, 1922.

Ninety thousand dollars for every family in Washington! Seventy-five thousand dollars for every one in Los Angeles! Fifty-five thousand dollars for every one in Cleveland or Boston! That is what each city would have to spend to rebuild since the war.

The amount is more than \$9,000,000,000. It equals \$3,000 for every soul in Chicago or Paris, \$4,000 for every one in Philadelphia, \$15,000 for every man, woman and child in Buffalo, and more than that for every citizen of San Francisco or Pittsburgh.

Nine billion dollars means also an enormous amount of hard work. Had Adam had that sum when he started to earn his living by the sweat of his brow, and there had been 1,000 additional men outside of the Garden of Eden, all endowed with perpetual life, he could have kept that sum working at \$5 a day from then until now and still not enough to pay himself good wages for his work.

Had Adam had \$9,000,000,000 when he was 69 years of age he could have kept busy 10,000 men at \$1,000 a year for nine centuries, reforming the world and perhaps preventing the flood in which at the age of 969 he was drowned.

\$5,300 an Acre
The money, so far expended, equals \$2,300 per acre for all of the 6,000 square miles of the devastated territory, and so far, I believe, almost every dollar has been honestly spent. One can see the results of the work in the new farms, buildings, factories and roads, which are so substantial.

They will last for ages to come.

France has mixed her money with brains and good business, and she is building for the far future. Take the matter of forests, of which a half million acres have to be replanted or reforested, while a third of a million acres more were maliciously destroyed or wastefully cut off. It will require a half century to bring them back to the normal.

France has been a giant on this work on a gigantic scale. She has set out tens of thousands of trees, and she recently got 100,000,000 Douglas fir seeds from the president of the American Forestry association which will straightway be planted. These seeds are enough to reforest 40,000 acres. She will set out 30,000 acres of trees in the Somme alone.

Cheap Building in France
I am writing this letter at Lens in the center of the coal mining region. The town had 32,000 people before it was almost entirely destroyed by the Germans. It is fast coming back, and brick houses for the miners are being constructed for half the price in the States. The foundations are of stone, and the bricks are better than any we have had in Washington since 1914. The roofs are of red tile, fit for a millionaire's home, and a two-story two-family house is cost-

less than \$1,000. The houses are being built on a scale that would cost \$5,000 each in America.

ing 24,000 francs, which at the present exchange equals less than \$2,400 dollars. It would surely cost \$5,000 in any American city.

The same sort of work is going on everywhere, and that with efficiency methods and standardized workmanship. Every town has to be laid out according to the general plan, and the houses are built with due regard to advanced sanitation. The bedrooms must be 8 feet 3 inches high and have each 15 square feet of windows. Every room must have 90 square feet of floor space, which would equal a room 10 feet long and 9 feet wide. The window openings must be one-sixth the size of the floor.

No cellar can be more than 4 feet below the street level, and the kitchen must be well lighted and as far as possible fly-proof. These are new things in France, as is also the wiping out of the mosquitoes which breed in the stagnant water of the devastated region at the time of the war and just after. This region is 100 times as large as the canal zone of Panama, and it was covered with ponds and shell holes, each of which bred mosquitoes. All these holes have been filled and the mosquitoes wiped out by means of kerosene.

The Re-creation of Lens
The town of Lens has been planned with parks and playgrounds, and the sites of the monuments and public buildings are already located. This is in all of the new towns, and in cities of twenty thousand people or more, so buildings can be put up without the approval of the mayor. Every town works out its own plan, but it must follow the new laws of construction. This is going to result in North France being even more beautiful than before. The towns are widening their streets and planting new parks. In Lille I saw them tearing down the walls and fortifications that run around the old city. This will give six hundred acres of new public playgrounds. Just back of the old cathedral at Rheims, they expect to lay out a big garden for the use of the people, and that town will also have five suburban gardens for the working men of the city.

Ask I look over some of the items of the new construction I can get a faint idea of the vast amount of money is going. At one time the government ordered one hundred thousand doors and ninety thousand windows, and the same purchase included three million hinges and hundreds of thousands of faucets. It buys iron beds four feet wide by the tens of thousands, and a single order was given for twelve thousand school desks and seats.

France Pays All the Bills
All this is paid for by the state. While the war was still on, the government decided that it would pay in full all of the war damages to individuals and towns, and demand the money back from the enemy. Every loss was to be paid no matter how it occurred. This included furniture, machinery, deterioration, requisitions as to lodgings, and the money required to bring the farms back to

the old state of cultivation. The law which provides for these measures is so long that it would fill just about ten columns of the ordinary newspaper.

In rebuilding the factories and restoring the mines the government furnishes a large part of the capital, all of which is supposed to be repaid to the state by the various factories. If the money is advanced by private parties, the government pays the overhead and five per cent on the advances until it can repay the state. It is buying machinery as fast as possible for the various factories. It has bought most of the farms, and located many new boundaries. According to the real estate laws of France, property must be equally divided among all the heirs. This has resulted in tens of thousands of farms no bigger than an American garden, and one man may have in one region a hundred different patches which he has either bought or inherited. In the new localities, each owner has been given as far as possible, consolidated, and many small farms put into one by means of exchange. Indeed, reconstruction is adding enormously to the economic value and beauty of France.

The Great Influx of Labor
But all this takes work, and with a million and a half men lost by the war, France is short of man power. Labor has been brought in from Italy, Spain, Algeria and Tunis. I see Poles and Russians among the workmen on the new structures, and the street markets are crowded with people of all races and tongues. This town of Lens makes one thing of Dawson when gold was first struck in the Klondike, and the people look much the same. Half of the new houses are made of old boards and sheets of galvanized iron.

A favorite house has the form of a great bow, its top and sides being corrugated iron, with boards at the front and the back, in which have been set windows and doors. The mayor of Lens lives in a weather-boarded shed, and the municipal building is a one-story wood structure, roofed with sheet-iron.

All of the municipal quarters could be knocked down in the states and replaced by a city hall to which the Frenchmen of the future will point with pride. The city hall, destroyed by the Germans, was a masterpiece of architectural beauty, but they represented the artistic work of ages.

The mayor here—a delightful, kind-faced old man—who was with me over the town, was in office before its destruction. He was carried off to Belgium by the Germans, and was a first to return back to the ruins when the enemy left. His wife

someone had told the police about the various victories for a service men's places. Broadway, it may be added, was one of those places, and the whole scene indicated a pleasant reaction against fanaticism or a frightful law and order.

According to which way you cast your own vote.

Aid Service Men
Many of the activities this week centered around aid to service men. There was a remarkable fashion show, with this in view at the Plaza. The debutante and younger hostesses of the city, the Yacht Club, Astor and Rockefeller families swept through the ball room as mannequins, clad in sumptuous apparel.

It was a sight for sore eyes, as well as for the eyes of the young people are not paying any attention to soldiers and sailors any more.

The cowboy roundup in Madison Square Garden, the parade of the down Fifth avenue have strolled this week little groups of cowboys and cowgirls in chaps and enormous Stetson hats, groups which appeared quite as much diverted by the New Yorkers as the New Yorkers were vice versa. Inside Madison Square Garden, after the S. P. C. A. had been staged by the Indians, the rodeo went merrily on. Cowgirls, rode standing in the saddle, or swung round beneath their pompadour tresses and up into the air, all the while at full gallop, while cowboys roped steers, and "wrestled" calves, and both sexes stuck on the backs of bucking bronchos till it seemed though neither bronchos nor riders would have a vertebra, leg, or hairpin left. Among other things, this was Marine Week, meaning that the marine show was on in Grand

Central palace. All kinds of ship models were on view from the ancient Tyrian galley to the gayest of the modern American merchantman. There was a demonstration of coast guard work, too, and of what not to do when a life saver is trying to rescue you from a sinking craft. Coast guards refused to confirm the report that calls for help from summer visitors in small boats had considerably decreased since the government took away from the coast guards such stimulants, for medicinal purposes only, as brandy and substituted aromatic spirits of ammonia.

Willed Her Children
Meanwhile, in this town where it is against the law to do so many apparently simple things, it is perfectly legal to will up so that children to neighbors. This is, in effect, the decision of the supreme court of Brooklyn which upheld the will of a mother who gave her fatherless children into the care of friends rather than into the care of the grandmother who is now seeking their custody.

You can see now why the Association of Brothers under the skin has applied this week to the courts for a charter. These brothers announce as the purpose of their organization the regaining of male supremacy in a two-feminized world. They desire control of mate, home, and household finances, and freedom from household drudgery. Wherein, it may be observed, they have nothing at all on the desire of the other half of the scalled human race.

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Rattlesnakes Grow Wild Near Chicago
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The rattler, a three-foot female with six rattlers and a brown, belongs to the prairie type. It is a confluence. Shortly after reaching the museum she gave birth to seven young snakes. Two died, one escaped, and the other four now some six or eight inches long, already have demonstrated on white mice that they are as deadly venomous as their mother.

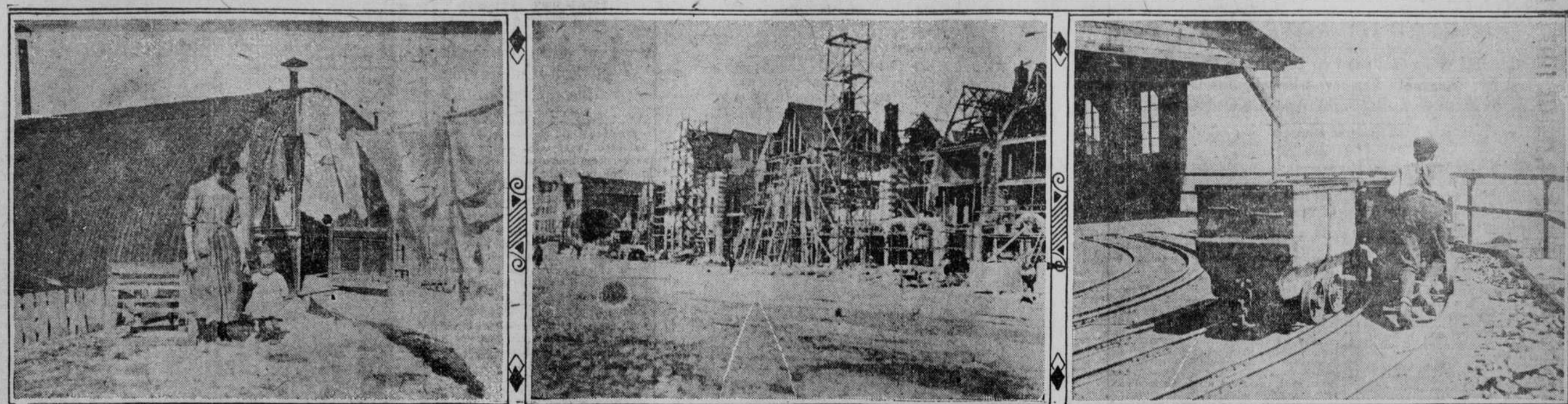
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I read an advertisement for Cuticura Soap and Ointment and sent for a sample which helped me so I purchased more, which healed me." (Signed) Joseph Reble, Box 44, Arlington, Va.

Improve your skin by daily use of Cuticura Soap, Ointment and Talcum. Sample Free by Mail. Address: "Cuticura Laboratories," P. O. Box 1024, Portland, Me. Send for free booklet, "How to Cure Your Skin." Cuticura Soap always without cost.



More than 5,000 miners and their families in the Lens district are now living in huts like this, but the French are building fine new houses for the miners, which would cost \$5,000 each in America.

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NEW LAMP BURNS 94% AIR
Beats Electric or Gas

A new oil lamp that gives an amazingly brilliant, soft, white light, even better than gas or electricity, has been tested by the U. S. Government and 35 leading universities and found to be superior to 10 ordinary oil lamps. It burns without odor, smoke or noise—no pumping up, is simple, clean, burns 94 per cent air and 6 per cent common kerosene (coal oil).

The inventor, J. F. Johnson, 609 W. Lake St., Chicago, is offering to send a lamp on 10 days' FREE trial, even to give one FREE to the first user in each locality who will help him introduce it. Write him today for full particulars. Also ask him to explain how you can get the agency, and without experience or money make \$250 to \$500 per month.—Adv.

The FUL-O-PEP Way
Produces More Eggs at Less Cost

If you want to gather eggs by the dozens where you now get only two or three, try the Ful-O-Pep way of feeding and you'll get them.

Thousands of poultry raisers are doing it right along—you can do it too if you'll feed your layers

FUL-O-PEP DRY MASH
The Great Egg Producing Food
Ful-O-Pep Dry Mash makes eggs because it is the raw material from which eggs are made—it's a combination of green food, animal food and high protein feed; contains just the right minerals and it sure does produce the eggs. The results our patrons are getting who feed Ful-O-Pep Dry Mash prove it conclusively. Keep Ful-O-Pep Dry Mash before your hens all the time and you'll get eggs in abundance.

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Whole streets, squares and towns are being rebuilt on a scale such as the world has never seen before. France has spent an average of \$2,300 per acre of the devastated regions, and hopes to collect the whole bill from Germany.

was led to the finest of his mines, and while one of the Germans pressed a button, he saw plants worth millions fly into the air at the noise of the terrible explosion set off for the purpose.

Mushrooms of Concrete
During my stay I have motored out to the shaft houses now building. Great power plants are rising, and huge water tanks vie with them in height. They are of concrete and look like huge mushrooms on gigantic stalks. A single one will hold about 18,000 gallons.

It is wonderful how much concrete is employed in the new construction. This is so of all sorts of buildings, and even of the telegraph and telephone poles, hundreds of which may be seen lining the roads of north France. These poles are 30 or 40 feet high, and a foot thick one way and eight inches the other. They are usually made with great diamond-shaped holes running from the bottom to the top—to decrease the weight. I suppose they seemed very substantial.

The new mine buildings are of brick, stone and concrete. The machinery is essentially modern and beautifully finished. Most of it comes from England and France. At present the work is being done in the shaft houses of wood; but brick and stone structures are now going up. I climbed to the top of one of these buildings and watched the coal as it rose out of the mines. It is hoisted in elevators by steel cables wound over great drums. The cars come up two at a time and at the same time two others go down. The loads are dropped into bins, from where the coal falls by gravity into the cars on the railroad tracks below.

A Talk With a Coal Baron
As I stood in the shaft house I talked with the director of this great mining company, which, as I have said, formerly furnished one-tenth of all the French coal. He is a fair type of the men who are remaking France. He is pushing the work and it is only by questions that one learns from him what was done by the Germans and what the French are doing now. France is not a great producer of coal. Before the war her output equalled only about one-fifteenth of our coal production. It was not one-sixth the output of Germany nor one-seventh that of Great Britain. It did not supply all of the need of the French, and something like 24,000,000 tons were annually imported.

Most of the coal that the French owned by private companies operating on a large scale. Those included by the Germans employed 150,000 men. The rest was produced by the small mines put together.

The destruction began in 1914, and it continued up to and after the

armistice. As soon as the Germans began taken to drain the mines or protect the workings. In 1917 they started systematic devastation, which continued until the end of the war. All the pits were dynamited and flooded to such an extent that about one-fifth of the coal production of France was destroyed. The soldiers went from shaft to shaft blowing up the works, and leaving behind not a single engine, boiler or train. The electric machinery was taken out, and by 1917 the destruction of the Lens mines was practically complete. Before the Germans left they set off more explosives, and practically destroyed all the coal-mining machinery of the invaded territory.

Making Over the Mines
The work of reconstruction began as soon as the French were able to get hold of the region. The government organized a commission of invaded mines and through a purchasing syndicate placed orders for pumps and electrical machinery to get out the water. This was as far back as 1917. The work went steadily on as more territory came into the hands of the French, and a vast deal of pumping and building is being done now. By 1920, 19 of the worst damaged shafts had been closed in cement, and a year later more than 50,000,000 cubic yards of water had been taken out. By the end of this year it is believed that all except the deepest shafts will have been pumped out.

One of the great troubles is the restoration of the underground workings. There are about 1,800 miles of tunnels, enough to reach from San Francisco to Omaha, that have to be reopened, and in doing this there is great danger from earth-slips and asphyxiating gases.

The surface work is enormous. Much of this has already been done. Most of the railways have been repaired, the stations rebuilt, and thousands of houses are now going up all over this region. In the Nord mines something like 10,000 dwellings are entirely repaired and out of 22,000 houses in the Pas de Calais 15,000 had been rebuilt by the first of last year. The work is still going on, and in doing this there is a great danger from earth-slips and asphyxiating gases.

Recreating the Textile Industry
I spent yesterday in Armentieres going through some of the cotton and linen factories that are now being rebuilt. The city lies within a pistol shot of the border of Belgium. It had 40 spinning and weaving mills at the outbreak of the war. These were all destroyed by the Germans; much of their machinery was carried over the Rhine as well as all the copper and brass. Some of the smokestacks were blown up so that they fell on the buildings and thus aided in their destruction. The town is a fair type of the ruined industrial centers.

That region is almost altogether given up to textiles. Before the war more than two-thirds of the woolen

spindles of France were in the invaded districts, and a great part of the linen spindles and looms. The Germans exported more than a half million linen spindles, and 4,000,000 cotton spindles. They sent home 15,000 cotton looms, and a greater number of looms used for linen.

They destroyed so much combing machinery that it will take about \$2,000,000 to replace it, and the spinning machinery will take another \$12,000,000. They blew up or carried away the machinery of the bleaching, dyeing and ironing plants. It is said that the loss in the textile industries alone is upwards of \$2,000,000,000.

In a New Linen Mill
I should like to give you a picture of one linen factory which I visited at Armentieres. New buildings are rising out of the debris, and they are installing a spinning and weaving establishment to which any town in New England might point with pride. The mill covers several acres and it has been almost rebuilt. The walls are of brick and glass and the roofs of glass and red tiles. The smokestack is a mosaic of red and white bricks, and as a whole the establishment is very artistic.

Before the war, that mill employed about 800 men, but its director tells me that he will now be able to get a much greater output with less labor, as his new machinery is much more efficient. In one of the weaving rooms, covering I should say half an acre, I found the looms all in place, and above them a thick layer of leather and rubber belts forming a network covering the whole. Some of the looms were weaving cloth 75 feet in width and others fine linens not a yard wide. Only one section of the room was operating, for much of the machinery is still incomplete. The director says he is pushing the work just as fast as he can get labor, and that the whole business will soon be humming again. I saw some looms on which girls were weaving the fine linens used in our country, and some which were turning out "ponges" for light-weight suits for American men. The director says his exports at present are largely to the South American countries. He deprecates our tariff which affects the Franco-American trade.

During my trips through the devastated region I have seen something of the best sugar industry. The loss there was more than \$100,000,000, and to replace the loss of machinery in the distilleries, breweries and other agricultural industries will cost hundreds of millions more.

Remaking Plate Glass and Chemical Works
From Armentieres I went into the Roubaix-Tourcoing district, another great textile center, which was practically destroyed but is now rising so fast that it will soon be on its feet. I have seen something of the reconstruction of the plate glass and chemical factories of Chauny, Clercy and Saint Gobain. I shall not describe what they were in 1914, but they produced at Saint Gobain and Chauny about 300,000 square yards of glass every year, and much of that was plate glass. At Chauny they 827 Glenn Bldg., Cincinnati, Ohio.—Adv.

turned out several hundred thousand tons of chemical products, and similar work went on at Clercy. All of these industries are coming back rapidly. Huge glass factories have risen out of the ruins. Hundreds of houses are being built, and great melting ovens are being constructed for the glass works of the future.

I might say the same as to the sugar industry, and indeed as to almost every industry destroyed by the war. The description of the wonderful work going on is beyond my limited space; and I can only say that France is coming back so fast that her progress surprises the nations.

Note—Airplane routes over all Europe, flights across the Sahara desert, and the progress of commercial aviation are all described in Mr. Carpenter's next letter, "How Europe Conquers the Skies."

Stop Whiskey
Wonderful Treatment Helped Faithful Wife to Save Husband When All Else Failed

The Happy Reunion
Golden Treatment Did It

Golden Treatment is Odorless and Tasteless—Any Lax Can Be Taken Satisfactorily at Home in Tea, Coffee or Food.